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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/696,097	10/28/2003	Paramjit Kahlon	OIC0099US	6621
6/6/95 7590 05/29/2009 CAMPBELL STEPHENSON LLP 11401 CENTURY OAKS TERRACE BLDG. H, SUITE 250 AUSTIN, TX 78758				
EXAMINER				
OBEID, FAHD A				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3627				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
05/29/2009		PAPER		

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

### Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

10/696,097

**Applicant(s)**

KAHLON ET AL.

**Examiner**

FAHD A. OBEID

**Art Unit**

3627

**Period for Reply** -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 February 2009.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SE-US)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 03/30/2009
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Status of the Application***

1. This is in reply to application filed on 02/12/2009.
2. No claims have been added.
3. Claims 23-32 remain cancelled.
4. Claims 1-22 have been amended.
5. Claims 1-22 are currently pending and have been examined.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112***

6. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

7. Claims 4 and 15 recite the limitation "the second intermediate format". There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

10. This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

**11. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Katz (US 2002/0178077).**

1. Regarding Claims 1, 3, 12 and 14: Katz discloses a method in a computing system for managing inventory, the method comprising:

- Extracting inventory balance information in a source format that is associated with a source computerized inventory management system (internal data are extracted in a variety of formats and therefore require transformation “conversion”; internal data such as suppliers databases which includes information about product catalog data, product specifications, part numbers, prices, quantity, total net landed cost, delivery dates, lead

time, PO histories, client inventories, distributor data, transportation schedules, supply inventories, inventory targets, vendor managed inventory etc. see at least para 42).

- Converting the inventory balance information in the source format into inventory balance information that is in an intermediate format (transformation is the process of mapping data from source objects onto target objects and applying conversions to the data, after the transformation have been defined, then scripts are generated which perform the function of converting and loading data into target objects; see at least para 190).
- Converting the inventory balance information in the intermediate format into inventory balance information in a target format that corresponds to a target computerized inventory management system (extraction, transformation, loading, and normalization/integration of internal data and external data; software tools are used to extract data from a source data set, transform "convert" the data through a set of business and data rules, and load the data to a target data set; see at least para 54).
- Using the inventory balance information in the target format to update an existing inventory balance record in the target computerized inventory management system (paras 39 and 201)

Katz does not explicitly disclose converting data in a source format into data in an intermediate format, and converting the data from the intermediate format into data in a target format.

However, Katz does disclose converting data from a source format into a data in a target format.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use modify Katz's "method and system for automatically invoking a

software module in response to an internal or external event affecting the procurement of an item” to include an intermediary system in which it receives data from a source format, convert it to a common format, and transmit it to a target format enabled, for the advantage of collecting data having a multi source format, converting and presenting the data in a common target format, to facilitate data calculations or accounting consolidations.

2. Regarding Claims 2 and 13: Katz discloses a method of claim 1, further comprising:
  - Using the inventory balance information in the target format to update an existing inventory balance record in the target computerized inventory management system (paras 39 and 201).
3. Regarding Claims 4 and 15: Katz discloses a method of claim 1, wherein the second intermediate format comprises a list of inventory balances class with a hierarchy of data elements (paras 122 and 208).
4. Regarding Claims 5 and 16: Katz discloses a method of claim 4, wherein the hierarchy of data elements includes a plurality of inventory balance elements comprises:
  - A list of inventory balances element;
  - An inventory balance related inventory location element;
  - A list of related inventory balances for defining a plurality of related inventory balances;
  - A custom data element for defining customized attributes for the inventory (paras 42, 46-47, and claims 14-18).

5. Regarding Claims 6 and 17: Katz discloses a method of claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance elements comprises a related inventory location element for defining related inventory location identifier (paras 46 and 47).
6. Regarding Claims 7 and 18: Katz discloses a method of claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance elements comprises a list of inventory balance data element for defining a plurality of inventory balance data elements (paras 46-47 and claims 14-18).
7. Regarding Claims 8 and 19: Katz discloses a method of claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance elements comprises an inventory balance custom data (paras 46-47 and claims 14-18).
8. Regarding Claims 9 and 20: Katz discloses a method of claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance elements comprises a related product element for defining a product identifier (paras 46-47 and claims 14-18).
9. Regarding Claims 10 and 21: Katz discloses a method of claim 7, wherein each of the plurality of inventory balance data elements comprises a list of balance data element for defining a plurality of balance data elements (paras 46-47 and claims 14-18).

10. Regarding Claims 11 and 22: Katz discloses a method of claim 10, wherein each of the plurality of balance data elements comprises: a bucket code element; a quantity of product element; a product unit of measure code element; and a balance data custom data element (paras 46-47 and claims 14-18).

***Response to Arguments***

11. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

***Conclusion***

12. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FAHD A. OBEID whose telephone number is (571)270-3324. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday 8:00am-4:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ryan Zeender can be reached on 571-272-6790. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Fahd A Obeid/  
Examiner, Art Unit 3627  
May 22, 2009

/F. Ryan Zeender/  
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3627